

Au revoir Ian and Kay

“No strawberries, remember?”

At every social event in Adel over the last nine and a half years, the cry has gone up to remind us Ian is allergic to strawberries, so this is something I'll always associate with him...but there's lots more memories....

In July 2009, at last our wondering and waiting was over, as Revd Dr Ian Jeffery White was installed as Priest in Charge of our church; accompanied by his wife Kay, and daughters, Victoria and Anna, all with the most glorious hair colours from pink to purple, and Kay's mother, Janet, whom I was to become close to in the ensuing years, when she'd tell me tales of her younger life.

So, what of this man? We learned he'd had a successful career in industry before training at the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield, and was ordained in 2005. He was a curate in Stanningley and Swinnow before coming to Adel, and once in Adel became very involved with the whole community, not just the Church, especially our Church School, where he took Assembly every Friday morning, and soon acquainted himself with the staff and pupils. He always has attended every school production, Summer Fair, Christmas fair, Sports Day and Christmas Dinner, to cries of “Hello, Revd White!”.

Ian has moved Adel Church forward in Health and Safety, Mission and Outreach, Finance, and Fabric committees, and established a Standing Committee, always with the aim to keep our church ahead of the game in business terms, assisted by his extensive knowledge from his previous career.

So, we know he's allergic to strawberries, but what of his likes? He was castaway on memorable night in Adel's answer to Desert Island Discs, where his choice of music surprised, thrilled or alarmed, according to taste. He was delighted when Status Quo appeared at the Leeds Arena, recording some tracks on his phone to play back when I next saw him. He's also an avid Liverpool FC fan, likes a good red wine, single malt whisky, and holidaying in Italy with his family. Family...yes, his greatest love is his family; over the years we've watched Victoria and Anna mature into beautiful women. Ian married Victoria to Jason on a glorious summer's day, where they had a marquee on the lawn at the back of the Stables...Ian and Kay staggered home around 2.30 am I believe..., I spent that evening watching Mo Farah get his first Gold at the Olympics, with Kay's mum Janet, a memorable night. We were all delighted when Anna became a teacher at our school, minus the pink hair I'm sorry to

say, but with her enthusiasm and personality shining through. Kay through all these years has been at Ian's side, supporting him whilst pursuing her own very successful career at Leeds University, they are a great team, as their long and happy marriage shows, and as congregation, and as a community, we wish them well in Ian's retirement, with more time to relax together in their new home. Ian plans to add to his culinary skills with baking too I understand.

On a personal note, it's been my privilege to serve as Churchwarden under Ian for nearly seven years; I can honestly say it's been the most rewarding job I've ever done, with Ian as my boss.

So Ian, Au revoir, I'm sure you will often bump into many of the congregation and we hope you, like us, have happy memories of your time in Adel.

Jenny Jones Churchwarden